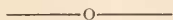


collection, but these latter retain part of the normal maculation of *E. arge* in the W mark, and traces of the outer tooth in the cell. The hind wings are largely blackish.



Synopsis of the North American species of *Melecta*.

By WM. J. FOX, Philadelphia, Pa.

FEMALES.

Size large, 11–15 mm. in length.

Pubescence on thorax and ornation of abdomen tawny; tubercles on scutellum ending in a short tooth; fore wings, with exception of a pale spot at apex of submarginal and discoidal cells, fuscous throughout.

interrupta Cr.

Pubescence on thorax and ornation of abdomen grayish-white; tubercles on scutellum ending in a long tooth; fore wings, except a spot in the median, first and second submarginals and third discoidal cells, and the broad apical margins hyaline . . . *miranda* n. sp.

Size medium, less than 11 mm. in length.

Ornation on abdomen interrupted medially; first joint of flagellum shorter than the following two united . . . *californica* Cr.

Ornation of abdomen not interrupted medially, forming continuous, irregular, or dentate fascia; first joint of flagellum as long, or a little longer than the following two united . . . *maculata* Cr.

MALES.

Size large, 11 mm. or over in length; pubescence of thorax and ornation of abdomen tawny . . . *interrupta* Cr.

Size medium, less than 11 mm. in length; pubescence, etc., pale.

Ornation of abdomen not covering the entire surface of the dorsal segments.

Fascia on abdomen interrupted medially; flagellum not, or very slightly thickened medially . . . *californica* Cr.

Fascia on abdomen not interrupted medially, forming continuous, irregular, or dentate bands; flagellum greatly thickened medially.

maculata Cr.

Ornation of abdomen covering the entire surface of dorsal segments.

mucida Cr.

***Melecta miranda* ♀.**—Deep black; head, thorax on sides and beneath dorsulum anteriorly, scutellum more or less, coxæ and femora beneath, with long, grayish-white pubescence; on the anterior part of dorsulum enclosed by the pale hair and a spot between the tegulæ and scutellum composed of black pubescence; dorsulum rather coarsely punctured, the punctures a little stronger and more separated than in *interrupta*, scutellum very coarsely punctured, more so than in *interrupta*, pro-

duced with two strong, rather elongate, widely separated teeth; apex of femora, outer side of tibiæ more or less and the tarsi with ashy pile, tegulæ reddish. Wings, with the apical margins, broadly, a spot in the median, first and second submarginal and the third discoidal cells fuscous; on each extreme side of dorsal abdominal segments 1-3 there is a large spot of pale pubescence, which is narrowly produced out on apical portion of segment to almost the middle as in *interrupta*, but the fascia are much narrower, the fourth and fifth segments with a transverse series of four spots, those on the fifth segment by far the smallest; last dorsal segment with elongate-triangular enclosure, which is divided by a strong, medial, longitudinal carina; the basal and lateral portions of the ventral segments finely and closely punctured. Length 12-15 mm.

Rapid City and Custer, S. Dak. (J. T. Aldrich). In general appearance resembles *Ericrocis lata*; also resembles *Melecta californica*, but is much larger. In the synoptical table here given of our species of *Melecta*, I have included *M. (?) mucida*, which, although possessing but two submarginal cells, is referable to *Melecta*. It is probably abnormal, as sometimes *Melecta californica* has but two submarginals in one wing, while in the other wing there is the usual number. *M. separata* and *edwardsii* are not included in the table, as they belong to *Bombomelecta*. This latter genus differs from *Melecta*, in addition to the characters given, by Patton, in having the tarsal claws cleft.

Mr. Jules Remy says, that on his arrival at Salt Lake, he observed upon the shore, on top of the salt, a deposit of a foot deep which was entirely composed of dead locusts,—*Edipoda corallipes*. These insects, driven by a high wind in prodigiously thick clouds, had been drowned in the lake, after having, during the course of the Summer (1855), destroyed the rising crops, and even the prairie grass. * * * The Mormons, in their simple and picturesque descriptions, say that these insects are the produce of "a cross between the spider and the buffalo."

"In the year 1503," says Moufet, "Dr. Penny was called in great haste to a little village, called Mortlake, near the Thames, to visit two noble ladies, who were much frightened by the appearance of bug bites, and were in fear of I know not what contagion; but when the matter was known, and the insects caught, he laughed them out of all fear." This fact disproves the statement of Southall, that the *Cimeux lectularius* was not known in England before 1670, and that of Linnaeus, and the generality of later writers, that this insect is not originally a native of Europe, but was introduced into England after the great fire of London in 1666, having been brought in timber from America. Cowan, *Curious Facts*.